



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1645

512-804-4812 telephone • 512-804-4811 fax • www.tdi.texas.gov

MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address

RIO GRANDE VALLEY EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS
P O BOX 2283
MANSFIELD, TX 76063

Respondent Name

GREAT MIDWEST INSURANCE CO

Carrier's Austin Representative Box

Box Number 19

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-12-2398-01

MFDR Date Received

MARCH 19, 2012

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "We filed the original bill to the patient within the 95 days timely filing limit, per instructions of the patient at the time of the ER visit. The patient was sent 3 statements 7/6/2011, 8/05/2011 & the final notice 9/6/2011. The account was then transferred to FCS collections agency. We did not receive the correct Workers Compensation information until 12/08/2011 when our office received the correct WC info from the hospital. As soon as we received the correct billing information we immediately updated our account, reversed it from collections, and submitted our bill."

Amount in Dispute: \$419.27

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "The Texas Labor Code requires reimbursement for all medical expenses to be fair and reasonable and be designed to ensure the quality of medical care and to achieve effective medical cost control...The carrier challenges whether the charges are consistent with applicable fee guidelines...Under Sec. 408.027(a), health care providers (HCPs) have 95 days from the date of service to submit a medical bill to the insurance carrier. This time frame applies to medical services provided on and after September 1, 2005. HCPs who fail to meet this deadline forfeit their right to reimbursement."

Response Submitted by: Great Midwest c/o Flahive, Ogden & Latson, P.O. Box 201320, Austin, TX 78720

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
June 23, 2011	99285-25-AQ, 30901-LT-RT-AQ	\$419.27	\$0.00

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for health care providers to pursue a medical

fee dispute.

2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.20 sets out the procedures for health care providers to submit workers' compensation medical bills for reimbursement.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §102.4 sets out the rules for non-Commission communications.
4. Texas Labor Code §408.027 sets out the rules for timely submission of a claim by a health care provider.
5. Texas Labor Code §408.0272 sets out the rules for certain exceptions for untimely submission of a claim by a health care provider.
6. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:

Explanation of benefits dated January 11, 2012

- 16, 29, R4, 25, AQ-Not All Info Needed for Adjudication was Supplied, Separate E&M Service, Same Physician, Time Limit for Filing Claim/Bill has Expired, Physician Service HPSA Area, Non-covered per state regulations.
- 16, 29, R4, AQ, LT, RT – Not All Info Needed for Adjudication was Supplied, Time Limit for Filing Claim/Bill has Expired, Physician Service HPSA Area, Left Side, Non-covered procedure per state regulation, Right Side.

Explanation of benefits dated February 15, 2012

- 168, 193, 29, 25, AQ – No additional allowance recommended, Original payment decision maintained, Separate E&M Service, Same Physician, Time Limit for Filing Claim/Bill has Expired, Physician Service HPSA Area
- 168, 193, 29, AQ, LT, RT – No additional allowance recommended, Original payment decision maintained, Time Limit for Filing Claim/Bill has Expired, Physician Service HPSA Area

Issues

1. What is the timely filing deadline applicable to the medical bills for the services in dispute?
2. Did the requestor forfeit the right to reimbursement for the services in dispute?

Findings

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.20(b) states, in pertinent part, that, except as provided in Texas Labor Code §408.0272, "a health care provider shall not submit a medical bill later than the 95th day after the date the services are provided." The requestor's position statement states, "The patient was sent 3 statements 7/06/2011, 8/05/2011, & the final notice 9/6/2011." No documentation was found to support that any of the exceptions described in Texas Labor Code §408.0272 apply to the services in this dispute. For that reason, the requestor in this dispute was required to submit the medical bill not later than 95 days after the date the disputed services were provided.
2. Texas Labor Code §408.027(a) states, in pertinent part, that "Failure by the health care provider to timely submit a claim for payment constitutes a forfeiture of the provider's right to reimbursement for that claim for payment." 28 Texas Administrative Code §102.4(h) states that "Unless the great weight of evidence indicates otherwise, written communications shall be deemed to have been sent on: (1) the date received, if sent by fax, personal delivery, or electronic transmission or, (2) the date postmarked if sent by mail via United States Postal Service regular mail, or, if the postmark date is unavailable, the later of the signature date on the written communication or the date it was received minus five days. If the date received minus five days is a Sunday or legal holiday, the date deemed sent shall be the next previous day which is not a Sunday or legal holiday." Review of the submitted information finds no documentation to support that a medical bill was submitted within 95 days from the date the services were provided. Therefore, pursuant to Texas Labor Code §408.027(a), the requestor in this medical fee dispute has forfeited the right to reimbursement due to untimely submission of the medical bill for the services in dispute.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the division finds that the requestor has not established that reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 reimbursement for the disputed services.

Authorized Signature

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

01/11/2013

Date

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute may appeal this decision by requesting a contested case hearing. A completed **Request for a Medical Contested Case Hearing** (form **DWC045A**) must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision* together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §148.3(c), including a **certificate of service demonstrating that the request has been sent to the other party.****

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.